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Technical Meeting on the International
Year and the International Decade of
the World's Indigenous People
Geneva, 20-22 July 1994
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE

Information received by United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) - NICARAGUA

1. The UNDP office in Nicaragua conducted a series of activities to commemorate the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples in 1993. Under the slogan, "Indigenous People - a new partnership" a series of consultations were held with members of the indigenous communities in Nicaragua and representatives of local governments of the autonomous regions of the South and North Atlantic and of the Government of Nicaragua. UNDP/Nicaragua, with the agreement of the indigenous populations and the Government, decided to make its central activity for commemorating the year of indigenous people the holding of the "Eleventh Inter-American Indian Congress", an especially important meeting for the indigenous peoples not only of Nicaragua but of Latin America as a whole. As a follow-up to the Congress, which took place at Managua, Nicaragua, from 22 to 26 November 1993 - in the framework of the NIC/93/015 project - the Government of Nicaragua, indigenous representatives and UNDP agreed to hold a series of meetings in order to give continuity to the proposals and recommendations issued by the Congress.

2. As a follow-up to its 1993 activities, UNDP/Nicaragua supported several activities by the Government of Nicaragua and the indigenous communities in the country. Activities with the indigenous peoples along the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, which had begun under the NIC/90/009 and INT/92/104 projects,

were strengthened. In addition, UNDP/Nicaragua supported and took part in the General Assembly of the Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific and Central-North zones of Nicaragua (May 1994, Managua). Over 250 indigenous delegates from Nicaragua participated in the meeting.

3. The Government of Bolivia took the initiative of organizing and convening the Regional Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. The meeting was held at Cochabamba, Bolivia on 30-31 May and 1 June 1994. It was chaired by the Vice-President of the Republic of Bolivia, Mr. Victor Hugo Cárdenas, and Ms. Rigoberta Menchú Tum, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador in 1993, and was attended by government representatives and representatives of the indigenous peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. A core document was prepared for submission to the United Nations General Assembly. UNDP/Nicaragua supported broad participation by government representatives and indigenous representatives from Nicaragua in this event. The UNDP/Nicaragua office assigned a focal point programme official to help with the event.

4. As a follow-up to the Cochabamba discussions and recommendations and with the support and participation of UNDP/Nicaragua, the Central American Regional Meeting for the Preparation of the Decade was held, with the participation of Ms. Rigoberta Menchú Tum. It took place in the cities of Managua and Puerto Cabezas on 18 and 22 June 1994 and was attended by indigenous leaders from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.